

**Central Coventry Fire District
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
July 19, 2011 – 7:00 pm
240 Arnold Road**

Minutes

1. Call to Order – 7:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

President: Girard Bouchard Jr.

Vice President: Joe Bonn

**Directors: – Bob Crowe – Linda Giguere – Ronald Gizzarelli -Anna
Mae Lapinski, Armond Niquette**

Treasurer: Tom Lacolle

Tax Collector: Jeanne Graemiger

Clerk: Christine Moniz

Chief : Robert W. Seltzer

Asst. Chief – Scott Tucker

Union President Dave Gorman

Not Present: Director Lapinski, Director Niquette

3. Motion was made by Director Giguere to go into Executive Session

for discussion on a personnel issue. Motion seconded by V.P. Joe Bonn President Bouchard called roll call to go into session Directors Crowe, Gizzarelli, Giguere, V.P Bonn and President Bouchard all voted aye.

Board moves into executive session at 7:05 p.m.

Board reconvened back into open session at 9:42 p.m.

**Motion made to seal the minutes by President Bouchard Seconded by V.P. Bonn
All Vote Aye.**

4. Approval of Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting – 05/17/2011, 06/14/2011, 06/21/2011, 07/12/2011

Motion to approve with amendments that Director Crowe, Treasurer LaColle, and Tax Collector Jeanne Graemiger absent with excuse for the special meeting to go over the budget. Vice President Joe Bonn was present at the July 12, 2011 Special Meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes as amended – Director Giguere Seconded by V.P. Bonn

All Vote Aye

Approval for the 5/17/2011 minutes was also added and approved as presented. Motion made by Director Giguere and Seconded by V.P. Bonn

All voted Aye.

5. Communications - none

6. Old Business – Business tended to last week the Treasurer on a proposal from the Coventry Credit Union. The Treasurer will cover it during his report.

7. Presidents Report – President Bouchard and Chief Seltzer toured the District and noted what street lights can be removed or shut off. The Chief will report on it in his report. The President met several times with the Chief and with the Union President in regards to the union contract. The President can report tonight that the Board has approved a tentative agreement and accepted by the membership on a contract extension the details was presented to the Board and the proposal will be presented to the Union. The Chief and the President met with Centerville Bank for a tax anticipation loan. The meeting during brain storming is was sparsely attended, but it went well. Centerville Bank stated the same as Coventry Credit Union. We will not hear anything about the loan until next week. It will be reported on at next month's meeting.

Motion to Approve the Presidents Report: Director Giguere

Seconded: Director Gizzarelli

All Vote Aye

8. Chiefs report - Personnel –We have three members out on OJI and one member out on paid administrative leave following an alleged road rage incident that occurred on Route 3 in Coventry. He will remain on leave until we receive further legal advice on letting him return to work.

President Bouchard and I have been reviewing the street lights. We are suggesting that several street lights be removed based upon the criteria that street lights should be located at intersections, cul-de-sacs, bad corners, and heavy pedestrian traffic. We also suggest dropping bulb sizes and would like to move forward ASAP with the permission of the Board so we can start seeing some savings in the 2011-2012 budget. (ACTION ITEM 1)

Fiscal Year 2010 SAFER Grant has been offered to the fire district to hire 5 firefighters, fully paid for, salary and benefits for the next two years. Only requirement is to hold the firefighters in employment for one additional year. FY2011-2012 we would be awarded \$310,075. FY2012-2013 we would be awarded \$319,377. (ACTION ITEM 2)

Motion to Approve Chief's Report: Director Giguere Seconded:

Director Crowe

All Vote Aye

Vote on Action Item One – by Director Crowe Seconded by Director Gizzarelli

All Vote Aye

Action Item Two- by Director Gizzarelli Seconded by V.P Bonn

All Vote Aye

9. Treasurer's Report - He discussed we have six more weeks of payroll, Clothing and Holiday has been postponed. Possibility of Longevity postponed. He discussed the operating expenses; we have one more month of fuel. Discussed the anticipated expenses \$556,467. If collections go well we should make it to the end of the fiscal year. The treasurer wanted to know if he and the Chief should get together to discuss changes. The loan we have with the Bank we could turn it into a 15 year mortgage with a 7.5% fixed rate. We would use our property to secure the loan. We would have to pay for some appraisals and the cost would be 1200 each or 1900 for both. The Chief stated we have one for Arnold road it is about two years old. If we get approval we would have to adopt a resolution, we need to look into using the rescue recovery and fire recovery for debt service. The treasurer wanted to know if he should hold off with proceeding with this loan and the President stated to move on with the process. President Bouchard wanted to know when the Coventry

Credit Union needed an answer to process the loan. Centerville Bank for now we will continue to discuss the loan process but it is not secure yet. The treasurer wanted to know if he needed a vote to continue with the appraisals and the loan process. The president stated we have the loan but we are changing the structure of the loan.

The President, the V.P, and the Chief agree to present this as a motion.

Motion to Approve changing the structure of the loan and to allow the Treasurer to continue to secure the loan and funding: V.P. Bonn

Seconded: Director Gizzarelli

All Vote Aye

Apposed Director Crowe

The Treasurer also discussed and went over the bills that are lined up for payment that is necessary to get paid this month. The venders that were discussed are the ones we need to pay. One of the larger bills is Blue Cross at 40,000 per month. The President also stated it is the Chief's Job to operate the budget and that the Treasurer should continue to pay the bills that the Chief approves

Motion to Approve the Treasurers Report: Director Giguere

Seconded: V.P. Bonn

All Vote Aye

10. Tax Collector's Report – She supplied the report for June and along with the report there was an addition \$77,617.00 as of today collected for the month of July up to the 19th. The one issue we have this year is higher bankruptcy that we cannot touch. The District will usually have one or two, but this year we have eighteen. The Tax Collector was asked if she has a total amount to taxes lost but she did not have the figures and can add them up. She is also working on Commerce Park that was in legal action with the town. It is the property on Arnold Road. We need to work on collecting 18,200.00. She stated we will know by the end of the week on what we can do on the property. It was reported that the Town bought back the land.

As far as the taxes owed by the Medical Facility Omega Health, the Lawyers are having a conference call on Friday, July 22 to discuss if something can be settled. They owe us \$135,000.00 we might make a settlement to lower the principle but not the interest.

A letter was presented to the Board and read aloud by the President with a complaint about the reminder letter that was sent out. She stated that she did not owe taxes but the tax payer was on the list so the reminder went out. The tax collector stated if a home owner has interest on the bill it might carry over to the next month and she stated that the tax office sends out notices. The tax collector stated that her office also sent a notice and the tax payer came in and paid her bill. The Chief stated that we received the letter at the station a week after the district sent out the reminder letter. So the two notices

must have crossed paths.

Another letter was read aloud requesting that the interest on her bill be waived the Board stated we to not waive any interest and advised the clerk to send out the letter to that effect.

**Motion to approve tax collectors report: V.P Bonn Seconded:
Director Giguere
All Vote Aye**

11. New Business – Discussed out of session the actions and results of the votes in executive session. One was the approval of the union contract extension. The second one was the proposal that was presented to the Board slightly amended and will be presented to the membership. Also approved was Mrs. Houle would be offered to work for the Fire Marshal for one day a week. President would like to skip budget work shop for tonight.

12. Introduction of new business- Next year's budget and very short reports.

13. Good and Welfare – The President would like to discuss something that is not conducive to the good and welfare of this Fire District. It appears that Director Gizzarelli took it upon himself to speak out during the public section of the Town Council meeting

regarding the response time to Center of New England Blvd. He commented on the response time for the Hopkins Hill Fire District. The Director brought up the subject several meetings ago with our District and he was advised that it was not the prerogative of this district to investigate the time to respond it should be their tax payers. At the Town Council Director Gizzarelli did state that he was not speaking on behalf of the CCFD Board however he did bring up that the President, Chief and the Board did not want wish to respond to the issue. It is not our issue and not our district. Also discussed was a response from Chief Frank Brown in form of a letter to Kent County Times stated that Mr. Gizzarelli is a member of our fire district. Again last night at the Town Council meeting Mr. Gizzarelli brought up the issue Chief Brown defended the response time of Hopkins Hill and the times that is expected on a country wide average. They had some debate over it the Town Council listened and then our President spoke at the meeting and tried to assure that the Hopkins Hill is a competent Fire District and they respond in a timely manner. He also mentioned that we are mutual aide and vice versa. On July 19th prior to coming to the Board Meeting President Bouchard was given a call by Chief Brown stating that earlier in the day Mr. Gizzarelli had called Mrs. Brown, who is an employee at the Town Hall. She stated that our Board member continued to discuss the same issue on the response time and he also mentioned auto payment to her as well. She had explained that she could not discuss Fire District issues while she is at work for the Town she also had no choice but to hang up on Mr. Gizzarelli and had leave for the day

because she was so upset. The President also re-iterated that we are not going to use that program of auto pay. The President stated that quite frankly he was upset about the council meeting and also upset about the phone call from Chief Brown . Even though Mr. Gizzarelli may speak in public on his behalf and not the District your hat follows you. The fact that you brought up the Chief and the President it seems as though we do not give a darn when in fact it is not our issue to address. The President feels that Director Gizzarelli has embarrassed the fire district and the President and that he should drop the issue.

14. Motion made to adjourn 10:51 p.m. By Director Giguere

Seconded by V.P. Bonn

All Vote Aye